

Opposed. It is advanced. Excuse me, just stand at ease one second.

EASE

SPEAKER WITHEM: Sorry, just a mechanical thing we needed to deal with. Senator Maurstad, excuse me, Mr. Clerk.

CLERK: Mr. President, LB 123. No E & R's. Senator Vrtiska would move to amend the bill, however. The amendment is on page 1405 of the Journal.

SPEAKER WITHEM: Senator Vrtiska, on your amendment.

SENATOR VRTISKA: Mr. Speaker and members of the body, AM1349, which is in the Journal, is the contents of LB 785 with the amendments that were proposed by the Education Committee. The amendment simply allows a teacher who is fully certified in another state but not certified in Nebraska to be employed as a substitute teacher in Nebraska for up to ten working days, providing they apply for their Nebraska substitute teachers certification at the beginning of that ten-day period. Basically, we are talking about providing a grace period of ten working days for a substitute teacher who are fully certified in another state to get their Nebraska substitute certificate. I introduced this idea in LB 785 because many schools along the state border have difficulty in finding qualified substitute teachers who already...who have their Nebraska substitute certificates, particularly who don't have it on a moment's notice. This would simply give these schools some flexibility in being able to employ a substitute teacher who can show them a valid teaching certificate from another state, presumably from an immediate neighboring state, while the state department is processing their application. I've been approached by a number of schools in my district who have experienced this problem and I offered this as a way to ease their problem. It's important to note that this amendment would only apply to those substitute teachers who hold a valid certificate in another state and would not...and would require the teacher to apply for and pay a fee for the certificate. It does not exempt anyone from having to get their certificate. LB 785 was advanced by the Education Committee on a five to zero vote with technical amendments attached. I believe that this is a noncontroversial amendment and I want to thank Senator Matzke for offering me a chance to bring this amendment and would ask for the body to support it.